United Nations A/AC.121/42

General Assembly

Distr.: General
27 March 1998

Original: English

Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations
30 March-24 April 1998

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations

1. The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, in its report dated 28 June 1997, requested me to submit a report prior to its 1998 session on the progress made in implementing the recommendations contained in the Committee's report (A/52/209, para. 92).

2. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request. Its general structure, for ease of reference, follows that of section III, entitled "Proposals, Recommendations, and Conclusions" of the above-mentioned report.

I. Guiding principles, definitions, and implementation of mandates

3. As peacekeeping missions and the conflicts they address have become increasingly complex, it has become ever more essential to ensure both improved coordination among all actors during the missions and a smooth transition at their end. A number of measures have been implemented to enhance the coordination of all United Nations activities in the mission area related to the peace process:

(a) In my report entitled "Renewing the United Nations: a programme for reform" (A/51/950), I noted that my Special Representative, in addition to his/her authority over the peacekeeping operation, would have authority over the United Nations Resident Coordinator and the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator in the host country;

(b) In some countries, such as Haiti and Liberia, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative has been appointed as Deputy to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General or Director of his office in an effort to ensure unity of effort in the peace process;

(c) In some missions, depending on their mandates, full humanitarian components or humanitarian units, directly under the Special Representative, have been established as integral parts of the operation, in order to ensure full coordination with humanitarian agencies in implementing the operation's mandate.

4. These and other measures facilitate a smooth transition to post-conflict peace-building once a peacekeeping operation has completed its mandate. The appointment of the UNDP Resident Representative as Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General, facilitates the process, as the Resident Representative remains in the mission area in charge of development-related peace-building activities after the withdrawal of the peacekeeping operation. In cases where an operation's mandate includes demobilization and/or demining, the operation is usually supported in these tasks by the United Nations agencies, and the full transfer of responsibility to these agencies for these tasks begins before the peacekeeping operation withdraws. Another measure that can assist in the smooth transition from peacekeeping to peace-building is the deployment, at the time of a peacekeeping operation, of a United Nations

98-08054 (E) 270398

political office in the mission area. This office can assist in strengthening the gains already achieved by the peace process, as it has in Liberia.

5. Changes in the mandate of a peacekeeping operation during the course of its deployment, as opposed to the transitions that occur at the end of it, are made as a result of a decision by the Security Council, usually on the basis of recommendations made by me. In making such recommendations, I provide a full analysis of the political and military situation on the ground and the reasons that might require modification of an operation's mandate. I also provide an analysis of the resources required to carry out the revised mandate. In accordance with usual procedure, the development of recommendations on an operation's mandate includes full consultation with the peacekeeping mission, especially in regard to its political, military, humanitarian and logistical aspects. Consultations are also held with the parties to the conflict, interested Member States, troop-contributing countries and others concerned. Should the Security Council decide to change an operation's mandate before this process is carried out, I would usually provide the Council with an analysis of the effect of such changes as soon as the necessary consultations have been completed.

II. Consultations

6. Meetings of troop contributors are held both at the request of the President of the Security Council (in accordance with the procedures set out in the presidential statement of 28 March 1996 (S/PRST/1996/13)) and at the invitation of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. In the latter case, the Department organizes meetings of contributors when the situation warrants: developments on the ground might require such a meeting, as might a visit to Headquarters by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, the Force Commander or the Chief Military Observer. If troop contributors request the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to organize a meeting, the Department does so, again, when events in the mission area so warrant.

III. Enhancing the capacity of the United Nations

A. Personnel

7. While the selection procedures for chief administrative officers have proved sound, the pool of potential officers to be selected still requires strengthening. To increase the number of qualified candidates in its senior management roster, the Field Administration and Logistics Division, in cooperation with the Office of Human Resources Management (OHRM), completed a first round of training for potential chief administrative officers in 1997. However, the problem of the lack of qualified candidates remains, and it needs to be addressed more energetically.

8. New procedures for death and disability compensation for members of contingents were set out by me in my report on this question (A/52/369). The General Assembly, in its resolution 52/177 of 18 December 1998, took note of that report and authorized me to implement the measures outlined therein for the reimbursement of contingents.

9. The use of gratis personnel provided by Governments and other entities has been addressed by the General Assembly in its resolution 51/243 of 15 September 1997. In particular, the applicability of Articles 100 and 101 of the Charter of the United Nations is referred to in paragraphs 11 (a) and (b); the need to maintain as wide a geographical basis as possible is addressed in paragraph 11 (d); the criteria for engaging the services of gratis personnel are defined in paragraphs 4 (a) and (b); and the requirement to notify all Member States if there is a need for gratis personnel is contained in paragraph 12. The use of gratis personnel is also the subject of my report of 9 March 1998 (A/52/823).

10. The phase-out plan for gratis personnel, prepared by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in cooperation with the Department of Management pursuant to resolution 51/243, was taken into account in my report of 8 December 1997 entitled "Phasing out the use of gratis personnel in the Secretariat" (A/52/710). In paragraph 14 of that report the Secretary-General acknowledges the potential consequences of an immediate large-scale withdrawal of such personnel from the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and expresses the intention to phase out gratis personnel over a period of time, by 31 December 1999, at the latest. The issue of the financing of posts occupied by officers on loan is also covered in my report on gratis personnel provided by Governments and other entities (A/C.5/52/43) and in the proposed support account budget for the period from 1 July 1998 to 30 June 1999 now under consideration by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

B. Organization, planning and coordination

11. The issue of the organization and structure of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, as indicated in the

preceding paragraph, is being addressed in the context of the proposed support account budget. The Department continues to pursue reform aimed at achieving streamlined and transparent policies and procedures. In this regard, coordination between the Department and other Secretariat offices and departments is essential, particularly in the area of administration, where flexibility in the application of rules and procedures can measurably reduce problems and delays.

12. Regarding procurement, on 27 October 1997, I submitted a report to the General Assembly setting out proposals for procurement reform (A/52/534). The procurement manual is currently under review, and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations has also provided extensive comments on the proposed reformulation. The Task Force on Common Services is also considering the issue. But more work needs to be done to make the procurement procedures more flexible.

13. A new delegation of procurement authority for field missions was implemented in August 1996. Prior to that time, the local committees on contracts could not consider requests in excess of $70,000. Now, the the committees can consider all requests between $50,000 and $200,000. Cases in excess of $200,000 must be submitted to the Procurement Division of the Department of Management and to the Headquarters Committee on Contracts for review. In addition, field missions can now procure goods and services directly from suppliers around the world without geographical limitation, whereas in previous years they were confined to their immediate local areas for such purchases. These changes have brought about significant improvements in the efficiency and the response time of procurement in peacekeeping missions. The delegation of authority granted to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in matters of recruitment has increased its capacity to deploy civilian personnel to the field in a more timely and efficient manner. With respect to delegation of authority to the missions themselves, increased financial limits have been approved for property survey and third-party claims for peacekeeping operations during the liquidation phase. These offer important assistance in ensuring that as many cases as possible can be settled in the mission area.

14. Consideration could be given to missions being permitted authority to obtain military supplies on a letter-of-assist basis. However, under the new procedures for reimbursement of contingent-owned equipment, the majority of troop contributors are likely to choose a wet lease/self-sustainment package of reimbursement, thus reducing considerably the need for provision of supplies through letters of assist.

15. Vendors are registered through an ongoing process, thereby continuously expanding and updating the supplier roster maintained by the Procurement Division. There are now approximately 2,500 registered vendors and 1,820 on a provisional list, from a total of 102 countries. In the past year, the Procurement Division has intensified its efforts to expand the supplier roster further, through attendance at seminars held in Africa, Asia, Europe and North America. The Procurement Division is now located on the Internet, permitting suppliers from around the world to visit its home page for information on United Nations procurement, or to obtain a supplier application.

16. The principle of competitive bidding has continued to be reinforced and improved in recent years. In 1995, 65.7 per cent of all procurement was through competitive bidding, while 34.3 per cent represented procurement through authorized exceptions. In 1997, competitive bidding accounted for 76.3 per cent of procurement, and exceptions accounted for 23.7 per cent. Of these exceptions, a significant number involved purchases below $25,000 and were, pursuant to the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, exempt from competitive bidding. In all cases involving procurement based on authorized exceptions, it is standard practice that the reasons for such exceptions must be documented in writing. In the past two years, all transportation contracts were awarded on a timely basis, even though some of them allowed only extremely short lead times for all the procurement activities necessary.

17. On 31 July 1997, I presented a report to the General Assembly entitled "Management of peacekeeping assets: field assets control system" (A/51/957). The report describes the systems developed for managing and controlling the Organization's mission assets. It expands on the assets management strategy described in my report of 29 May 1996 (A/50/965) and it also takes into account the views of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in its reports of 26 June 1996 and 14 April 1997 (A/50/985 and A/51/872), the recommendations of the Board of Auditors (A/C.5/50/51) and the recommendation of the Office of Internal Oversight Services regarding the codification of assets (contained in section E of my report of 20 February 1997 (A/52/803)).

18. To date, the field assets control system is being tested in four peacekeeping field operations: the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG), the United Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO), the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) and the United Nations Logistics Base in Brindisi. If the General Assembly grants approval for the provision of the required additional human resources, the Department of Peacekeeping

Operations will complete its development and implementation.

19. In addition to describing the field assets control system in detail, the Secretary-General in his report (A/51/957, paras. 25 and 26) introduced plans for the development of a comprehensive field mission logistics system. This system will provide an interactive database and on-line environment for communication between Headquarters and missions in specific areas associated with their logistics support. It is expected that the field mission logistics system will be developed in-house by building on the groupware, data transmission network and electronic data-processing equipment already in place for the field assets control system. The design for the field mission logistics system has not yet been finalized, but a possible arrangement is shown in annex IV to the same report (A/51/957).

20. In its resolution 52/1 of 15 October 1997, on the financing of United Nations peacekeeping operations, the General Assembly requested the Advisory Committee to provide more specific guidance to the Secretariat on conducting a cost-benefit analysis for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations has prepared and submitted this analysis to the Advisory Committee and it is now under consideration. My report on the financing of the Logistics Base (A/51/905) examines the options for carrying out its three primary tasks: maintenance of two mission start-up kits, the maintenance of the Field Administration and Logistics Division reserve of economically reusable United Nations-owned equipment and the operation of the satellite communications link between Headquarters and the peacekeeping missions in the Middle East and Asia.

21. Potential contributing countries are identified during the early stages of the planning process for a possible operation. In accordance with standard procedure, they are kept apprised of the planning process as it develops, the tasks which would be expected of those who serve, the potential mandate of a peacekeeping operation and the situation on the ground. Once an initial concept of operations has been framed and an assessment of the tasks and likely requirements for resources to accomplish them is possible, informal contacts are made with potential contributors. These will have been preceded by a search of the Standby Arrangements System for a match of possible resources with requirements. This practice of regular briefings of potential contributors on the concept of operations as it is developing helps the Department of Peacekeeping Operations refine the concept. It also assists Member States in taking a final decision on providing personnel and preparing for their timely deployment.

22. Regarding reimbursement of contingent-owned equipment, the Phase IV Working Group completed its deliberations on 13 February 1998 and has submitted its report to the Fifth Committee on the review of the implementation of the new procedures for reimbursement (A/C.5/52/39). My report on the Phase IV Working Group is being prepared for submission to the General Assembly through the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

23. An effective public information capacity, developed in close cooperation with the Department of Public Information, is viewed as an integral part of peacekeeping operations. In accordance with standard procedure, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations consults the Department of Public Information in the early planning stages of an operation and works closely with it in planning the public information component and media strategy. The Department of Public Information is normally represented in reconnaissance teams sent to the field to develop the concept of operations for potential missions. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations continues to consult closely with the Department of Public Information on public information and media issues throughout the implementation of a mission's mandate.

24. On 3 March 1998, I established a Trust Fund to support public information and related efforts in United Nations peacekeeping operations. The Fund will be used to enhance public understanding of and support for the role and objectives of the United Nations. The Fund's resources will be devoted to support activities that lack specific provisions in the regular budget or under assessed contributions. It is intended to provide the Organization with the flexibility to address unforeseen contingencies more effectively.

25. The Trust Fund's resources will be employed to meet special needs for public information products or activities related to United Nations peacekeeping operations. They will ensure the timely initiation of public information activities during the preparatory and start-up phases of new peacekeeping operations or in connection with expansion of or changes in the mandates of existing peacekeeping operations. They will also support initiatives aimed at enhancing the Organization's capacity to communicate with the general population in mission areas. Donors can support public information efforts related to peacekeeping operations in general, as well as earmark contributions for specific missions. The Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations will act as programme manager for the Fund.

26. In March 1997, the Lessons Learned Unit, in conjunction with the Department of Public Information,

conducted a review and training seminar on public information policies and practices for field missions for current and former staff of 21 United Nations field missions. The seminar was an opportunity for public information staff to share past experiences, common problems and lessons learned and to contribute to the compilation of a practical manual on "Guidelines for Public Information Components in United Nations Peacekeeping and Other Field Missions". The guidelines cover all aspects of efficient public information activity in the field, including: planning, staffing and structure; dealing with the media; spokesmanship; radio, print and television products; photography; dissemination; and archiving. The manual has been widely distributed to departments and all United Nations field missions.

27. Regarding the question of obtaining stable, predictable financing for the Lessons Learned Unit, in paragraph 18 of its resolution 51/239 A of 17 June 1997 on the support account for peacekeeping operations, the General Assembly took note of the usefulness of the lessons-learned capacity and requested the Secretary-General to submit a report for consideration during the third part of its resumed fifty-first session on the resources and structure needed to strengthen the Unit's functions and to ensure the sharing and application of experience gained in peacekeeping operations. Following consideration of my report on the Lessons Learned Unit (A/51/965), the General Assembly decided, in its resolution 51/239 B of 15 September 1997, temporarily to redeploy one P-4, one P-2/1 and one General Service post. These were funded from the support account to carry out the functions described in my report. The General Assembly also decided to revert to the issue in considering future budget proposals.

28. As part of its methodology, the Lessons Learned Unit solicits comments from contributing countries and interviews senior officials of peacekeeping missions and officers of permanent missions of contributing countries at Headquarters. Over the past year, the Unit has solicited comments from countries that contributed peacekeepers to the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM), the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), and the United Nations Transitional Administration for Eastern Slavonia, Baranja and Western Sirmium (UNTAES). The Unit has disseminated some of its work to Member States (through their permanent missions in New York) as well as to research, defence and training institutes in troop-contributing countries. However, all printing and dissemination costs are borne through extrabudgetary sources. The Unit is unable to provide its reports in all the official languages of the United Nations, because of the lack of financial resources. Two of its reports, *Comprehensive Report on Lessons Learned from UNAMIR* and *Multidisciplinary Peacekeeping: Lessons from Recent Experience*, were translated and printed in French through extrabudgetary funding.

29. Regarding the need for effective coordination of all aspects of peacekeeping operations to occur under the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in the field, the decisions announced in my report on reform (A/51/950), as noted in paragraph 3 above, strongly support and advance the Special Committee's recommendations.

30. As concerns the coordination of demining activities, I decided that, effective 31 October 1997, the United Nations Mine Action Service, within the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, would become the focal point within the United Nations system. The Service has already developed close cooperation with the other departments and agencies involved in different aspects of mine action. In order to achieve a transparent, coherent and integrated United Nations policy, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations has engaged all concerned United Nations agencies and other major actors in a concerted effort to develop a common policy, now agreed, that clearly defines responsibilities, lines of reporting, tasks and goals.

C. Safety and security

31. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations places the highest priority on ensuring the safety and security of military and civilian peacekeeping personnel. Security is included in the planning process for new missions. The United Nations Security Coordinator is invited to participate in the planning process, including in reconnaissance missions to the field, and to provide advice on measures to ensure the security of United Nations peacekeeping personnel. Resources required to implement these measures are included in the mission's budget. Efforts are also made at the early stages to ensure that security measures adopted for peacekeeping personnel are fully coordinated with those for United Nations agency personnel. Once an operation is established, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations continues to coordinate closely with the Security Coordinator on security issues. To facilitate this process, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations has recently appointed a focal point for security.

32. Security and evacuation plans are developed in all missions by the head of mission/designated official. These plans allow for the use of all the resources available to the mission. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations is aware of the need to allow for sufficient international or field

service security officers in the staffing table of a mission, and budgetary provision is also made for defence stores.

33. In addition to the above mission-specific issues, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations is working with the United Nations Security Coordinator in developing general guidance on security in areas where both United Nations agency and peacekeeping personnel are deployed.

D. Training

34. The United Nations training assistance team (UNTAT) concept remains the backbone element in the standardization of peacekeeping training within the Member States. Although initially conceived as a structure that would provide the United Nations with a ready pool of international instructors, the concept has evolved to the point where these experts have become the major force for the development of national and regional level training, of training standardization and of participation in multinational and multi-dimensional exercises.

35. Today, UNTAT provides expertise to Member States on conducting multinational, multidimensional exercises. Over the last 18 months, many Member States have focused on mission management by conducting multidimensional peacekeeping simulations and exercises. Participation by United Nations personnel in these exercises has had an impact well beyond the numbers deployed. Participation in two major exercises has taken place, and the Training Unit will coordinate the participation of United Nations personnel and role players in three other major multinational peacekeeping exercises this year.

36. Three UNTAT training seminars have been conducted over the past 12 months. The first seminar was hosted by the Government of Ghana in June 1997, the second by the Government of Singapore in January 1998 and the third by the Government of Zambia in February 1998. The two seminars in Africa were financially supported by the African Peacekeeping Trust Fund. A fourth UNTAT seminar is planned for Europe in June 1998. These seminars will enhance the capacity of participating Member States and regions to support future peacekeeping training.

37. With the added emphasis on the development of an African capacity for peacekeeping, the Training Unit has established a focal point for African peacekeeping training, who will specifically assist Member States in the development of training, coordinate the training activities among donor and African nations and maintain a database of training activities in Africa that can be shared by the United Nations, Member States and the Organization of African Unity (OAU). The participants at the most recent UNTAT seminar in Zambia were asked to explore approaches to this coordination role.

38. The Training Unit also aims to sponsor a logistics course for African nations in May 1998 which would focus on developing a better understanding of United Nations logistics in support of African peacekeeping forces. Support for this course will be sought from Member States with logistics expertise.

39. "Train the trainers" courses will also continue; two of them are scheduled for April and October 1998. These will focus on the preparation of national military and civilian police trainers who have responsibility for the development of national training programmes, and on the preparation of individuals and units for United Nations peacekeeping operations.

40. Additional training support material, including selection and training standards for civilian police and military observers, staff college modules and support materials, will be printed in the near future. Codes of conduct ("Ten Rules: Code of Personal Conduct for Blue Helmets" and "We are United Nations Peacekeepers") are now available in all official languages. A review of the Medical Support Manual will be completed by May 1998. Several other key documents are being translated. The Training Unit will also produce a CD-ROM in the near future which will include all the training materials published by the Unit and will upgrade the training database for Internet publication.

E. Civilian police

41. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations has made requests in its support account submission to strengthen the Civilian Police Unit. On 20 and 21 March, the Department convened a seminar at United Nations Headquarters on the role of police in peacekeeping. During the seminar, over 110 participants from 50 police-contributing countries, as well as representatives of regional organizations and non-governmental organizations, discussed both the expanding role of police in peacekeeping operations and ways to enhance United Nations capacity in this area.

42. Regarding the clear differentiation of tasks, the Office of Operations, the Mission Planning Service and the Civilian Police Unit have worked closely in the development of a detailed concept of operations for police components in missions. Recent examples have included the definition of

the police role in the United Nations Observer Mission in Angola (MONUA) and involvement in the development of rules of engagement for the United Nations Civilian Police Mission in Haiti (MIPONUH).

43. The Secretariat has continued to stress the importance of including civilian police within the Standby Arrangements System in numerous contexts, including in the seminar cited above.

F. Rapid deployment and standby arrangements

44. A project has been undertaken by the Medical Support Unit to classify medical units contributed to the United Nations standby arrangements. This is intended to ensure that appropriate medical standards are reached and to broaden the geographical distribution of Member States contributing medical units.

45. Progress on establishing the rapidly deployable mission headquarters (RDMHQ) has been slow, as the necessary funding was not made available through voluntary contributions to the trust fund established for this purpose. In this context, provision of funding for the core eight posts of the RDMHQ has been included in the support account submission.

G. Finances

46. The Secretariat continues to accord the highest priority to the settlement of contingent-owned equipment and death and disability claims, the backlog of which has been substantially reduced. Out of 228 claims for contingent-owned equipment, 180 (78.9 per cent) have been reviewed and are awaiting either further clarification or acceptance by the troop contributors.

47. Guidelines have been developed for the liquidation of missions, and these address their operational and financial aspects. Within the context of the new contingent-owned equipment reimbursement procedures, a model Memorandum of Understanding has been developed (A/51/967). Through negotiations with individual troop contributors, the Secretariat and the particular Member State concerned now sign a memorandum of understanding governing their contribution of personnel and equipment.

48. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations, in consultation with the Office of Legal Affairs, is in the process of preparing the compendium of instances in which the Organization is due restitution as a result of non-compliance with status-of-forces agreements.

IV. Cooperation with regional arrangements

49. The proposals developed in consultation with the Organization of African Unity and presented in a report to the Security Council on 1 November 1995 (S/1995/911) focus on the enhancement of Africa's capacity for peacekeeping and emphasize action in several broad areas: training assistance, joint peacekeeping exercises, greater African participation in the United Nations standby arrangements, partnership between countries whose contingents require equipment and donors that are able to assist, and closer cooperation between the United Nations and OAU. The Secretariat has stressed that, while partnerships have begun to develop among States in the provision of training, equipment and related assistance, such initiatives could have neither meaning nor chance of success unless the States that would benefit share the principles and objectives that inspire them. Therefore, the Secretariat has encouraged African States to be fully involved in the development and execution of these initiatives. In order to respond to the need for transparency, universality and impartiality, the Secretariat has initiated informal meetings in New York in consultation with OAU; the first such meeting was held on 5 December 1997. Subject to the availability of resources, the Secretariat is prepared to serve, in close coordination with OAU, as a focal point or clearing house for these activities. In this connection, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations is currently building a database of information provided by Member States on activities they are undertaking in support of strengthening African capacity for peacekeeping.

50. To enhance collaboration on strengthening African capacity for peacekeeping, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and OAU have each appointed focal points to act as liaisons with the other. The Department also stands ready to provide OAU with assistance in strengthening its Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management, and Resolution. The Department has sent two missions of experts to OAU for consultations on specific measures which might be taken in this regard.

51. Close coordination is established and maintained with regional organizations that deploy alongside United Nations peacekeeping operations. Consultations are held with them on a regular basis at senior and working levels, both at Headquarters and in the field. Reporting to Member States

is carried out in the context of my reporting obligations to the Security Council on specific missions where such cooperation exists. The United Nations also consults regularly with regional organizations that might not be deployed alongside it but that have an interest in a particular peace process.

52. The Lessons Learned Unit is undertaking a six-part study on cooperation with regional organizations in the context of peacekeeping and peace support. The objective is to draw common lessons from the experiences of six different cases where United Nations peacekeeping operations were conducted in conjunction with a regional organization and to develop guidelines and doctrine for future cooperation. The cases being studied are Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Eastern Slavonia, Georgia, Haiti and Liberia.

V. Other matters

53. Regarding the commemoration of 50 years of peacekeeping, a programme of activities to be undertaken throughout the year has been developed in close cooperation between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Public Information. This involves activities around certain specific dates that mark historic events in United Nations peacekeeping. These events and activities will include the special commemorative session of the General Assembly, the awarding of the Dag Hammarskjöld Peacekeeping Medal, the release of special commemorative stamps, and other public and media events. The Secretariat has also been in contact with Member States that have expressed an interest in organizing special events throughout the year.